

SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH

Great Amount of Work Done by This State Official.

HE HAS ABLE ASSISTANTS.

The State Library is Under His Control and the Official Doings of the Executive Are Kept in His Record. Increased Appropriations.

The office of Secretary of the Commonwealth is one of the important departments of the State Government.

In this office the records of the work of the Executive are kept, charters are recorded and, under special acts of the Legislature, the charter and papers in the reorganization of big corporations and railroads are filed. An enormous amount of work of this character is done in this department.

The journal of the Governor's official action in the matter of pardons, etc., is kept here, and this, in itself, is of much magnitude.

The regular work of the office has constantly increased. The number of charters recorded has increased eight fold in the past fifteen years, as is seen from the following:

CHARTERS LODGED.
Comparative statement of number of charters lodged in the office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth:

1884, 55; 1885, 67; 1886, 80; 1887, 111; 1888, 126; 1889, 411; 1890, 533; 1891, 601; 1892, 538; 1893, 366; 1894, 416; 1895, 376; 1896, 312; 1897, 478; 1898, 320; 1899, 490.

These charters average about four pages of five hundred words, and pay the State an average of nearly four dollars each. This does not include work.



JOSEPH T. LAWLESS.
(Secretary of the Commonwealth.)

time and pay for making certified copies, which is a large item in itself.

This is only one item of the work attached to the office.

Secretary Joseph T. Lawless comes under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Commonwealth. Naturally, this special department could not be handled properly by the Secretary or his clerks alone, so that it has been found necessary to employ a librarian under whose charge the conduct of the library is placed.

The Secretary has, also, the supervision of election returns in State elections, and this necessitates a large amount of work. Certificates of election and appointments are sent out by the Secretary.

CONTINGENT EXPENSES.

The annual appropriation for the contingent expenses of this office has been five hundred dollars for the past fifteen years and has been entirely inadequate for the past ten years at least, in that money had to be advanced each time until the beginning of the next fiscal year. When the appropriation was made, the money was not sufficient to keep the office going properly, when the other day it determined to increase that appropriation.

Secretary Joseph T. Lawless has as his assistants an able corps of workers. Mr. J. G. Hankins is his chief clerk, upon whom the bulk of the work devolves. Mr. Hankins is most courteous in his dealings and is very popular with the large class of public officials and private citizens with whom he comes in contact in his official capacity.

Mr. W. W. Scott is the most capable librarian.

John H. Moore is another clerk, whose assistance is valuable, and Mr. John E. Epps, Jr., is the polite door-keeper of the Library and messenger.

This embraces the force and the Legislature was impressed with the fact that the appropriation for the year was not each year not sufficient to keep the office going properly, when the other day it determined to increase that appropriation.

STONEWALL JACKSON.

An Interesting Anecdote Related About Him.

In the current number of the "Confederate Veteran" Judge H. C. McWhorter, relates an incident in the life of "Stonewall" Jackson which came to his knowledge first hand. Judge McWhorter lived in the same neighborhood where the famous general spent his early life. The anecdote is as follows:

"The following incident in the life of Gen. Thomas J. Jackson, which, I believe, has never been given to the public, but which I had several times from the lips of my venerable uncle, Mr. Conrad Kester, who lived at Weston, in Lewis county, Va. (now West Virginia), some three miles above the 'Old Cummins Jackson Mill,' where young Jackson lived with his uncle, will serve to show that those sterling qualities of head and heart which so characterized his life in after years were innate in the boy, and even at the early age of 10 years his high sense of morality and his high standard of morality that he could not easily be induced to lower it. At the time mentioned in the West Fork river, on whose banks stood the old mill, a school was in session, and the schoolmaster, who was a fisherman, was sought after so eagerly as that noble game fish called the pike. 'Tom,' as he was familiarly called, partially supplied the demands of the limited fish market at the little village of Weston. One day Tom proposed to Mr. Kester that he would let him have all the pike he caught a foot in length or over at the price of fifty cents each. Mr. Kester accepted the proposition, so the solemn compact was concluded.

"Tom continued to perform his contract faithfully, and sold Kester every pike he caught of the regulation length until one day he was seen by Col. Talbott going through town, making straight to Kester's house, where the schoolmaster of a pike 35 inches in length, when the following colloquy took place:

"Hello, Tom. That's a fine fish you have. I want to buy it."

"Tom, without apparent interest in what the Colonel was saying, and without halting, laconically replied: 'Sold to Mr."

GLIMPSES OF SOUTH AFRICA

IN PEACE AND IN WAR.

Southern Africa, that enormous expanse of tropically verdant territory extending from the Lambert River to the Cape of Good Hope, has for a century or more lain dormant to the eyes of the civilized world. Only within the past two decades has public attention been drawn to the wonderful natural resources and mineral wealth of this wild and rugged land, and yet within this period, marvelous creations of brilliant modern cities have supplanted the desert lands and haunts of savage tribes. The steady march of civilization, the all-pervading ambition to accumulate the wealth of diamonds and gold that lay beneath the crust of this mighty land, each has borne its part in the metamorphosis and heralded to the world the wonderful possibilities of that "Dark Continent" for the energy and enterprise that the twentieth century will bring to light.

In no other country in the world save our own continent during its colonial period has progress been marked with such adversity and strife as Africa. From the time the early Dutch settlers landed in the Cape Colony up to the present, there has existed almost a constant state of warfare; the natives disputing the advance of the Dutch and they in turn resenting the inroads of civilization. In spite of this, so strenuous were the efforts of the colonists in their determination to turn to account the beauties and resources of the land of their adoption, that to-day they enjoy the fruits of their successes in a paradise of tropical vegetation, a salubrious climate and surrounded by the highest advantages of intellectuality and luxuries of civilization.

Cape Town is the metropolis and seat of government of the Cape Colony. Its historical past and present is fairly thick in the traditions of the early Dutch and the Huguenots. True, the old forts and buildings of distinctly Dutch architecture still remain, but magnificent edifices of the most modern type, beautiful botanical gardens and the public improvements are evidences of the wonderful advance of civilization.

Port Elizabeth is the Liverpool of South Africa. It is a great commercial center, coupled with some of the largest shipping interests in the world; a city of the most modern type, essentially English in character, and possessing some of the largest as well as the most architecturally magnificent buildings and public institutions in South Africa.

Natal is the beautiful, tropical Garden Colony. Its luxuriant vegetation and glorious climate, its wide avenues of trees and fine buildings, the native Zulu servants and the picturesque costumes of the Orientals, lend an air of peace and tranquility, while the march of civilization and progress are in evidence at every turn.

Johannesburg, the Golden, with its fine architectural creations, public institutions and parks, possesses many attractions that easily place it as the foremost city of South Africa. Great industry, mining, the apparently inexhaustible veins of gold-bearing quartz, in which upwards of seven hundred millions of dollars are invested, has been the attraction for the thousands and thousands of "Uitlanders," whose "grievances" are substantially the cause for the cruel war between Briton and Boer, the battles of which have been ranked as the "bloodiest of the century."

So great has been the interest manifested in South Africa and the progress of the war, and so eager the thirst for information, coupled with the demand for a pictorial history incident to the scenes of warfare, that the publication of "Glimpses of South Africa" has been undertaken upon a scale of fidelity and completeness never before thought of and involving as it has an expense of some magnitude. In order that the work might be absolutely reliable and thorough in its character, the publisher contracted for its authorship with Mr. Wymble Flemming, an African, whose authority upon South African matters is world-wide acknowledged. This gentleman, born in the Cape Colony, having travelled over nearly every inch of the country south of the Lambert River and lived in South Africa for nearly thirty years, with an extensive newspaper experience in Africa, England and America, the author of many interesting sketches of South African life and scenery, formerly connected with the consular service at Port Elizabeth, whose comments on the war have been so favorably received by the American press, and whose magnificent collection of photographs will appear in this work, will present South Africa as it is to-day, with views of everything of public interest, including most of the important scenes of battle and a graphically illustrated description of each stage in the progress of the war.

This great work is published in serial form, and when complete will comprise a magnificent collection of photographic reproductions of the British-Boer war and South Africa. Portfolios distributed by The Times. For particulars see advertisement on another page of this issue.

Kester: "That can't be. You have not yet seen Mr. Kester. I will give you a dollar for it."

"I tell you it is sold, and is not mine to sell."

"What is Mr. Kester to give you for it?"

"Fifty cents."

"I'll give you a dollar and a quarter for it."

Tom cast upon him an indignant look and remarked: "If you get any of this pike, you will get it from Mr. Kester."

"On presenting the fish to Mr. Kester, that gentleman said:

"Tom, this is a splendid pike. I think I shall have to let you a dollar for it. Fifty cents is not enough."

"Tom replied: 'No, sir; that is your pike at fifty cents, and I shall not take more for it. Besides you have bought a good many from me that were pretty fish.'"

"There the transaction closed, and Tom was doubly thereby made stronger for the fierce struggles which awaited him in his future eventful career."

In a letter from the author to Major Thomas L. Brown, both of whom are members of the West Virginia Historical and Antiquarian Society, he states that he intended this for the Youth's Companion, but, upon suggestion of Major Brown, wrote it for the "Veteran."

CRADDOCK'S

BLUE SOAP.

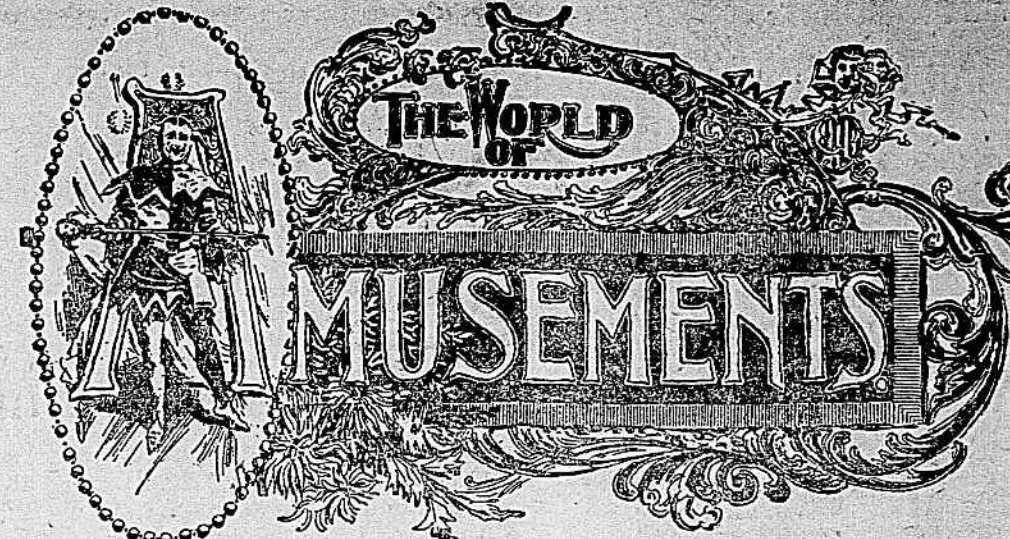
"Guaranteed to be the best and purest soap made with medicinal properties never before incorporated in a soap."

6c. Cake.

Every cake guaranteed to give satisfaction or your money returned as cheerfully as we take it.

Mevers

EVERYTHING FOR EVERYBODY



Academy—Tuesday: A. Q. Scammon in "The American Girl." H. H. Blount—Press and a first-class vaudeville company all week.

The only attraction at the Academy this week will be "The American Girl" on Tuesday night.

"The American Girl" is said to be a first-class piece, not because it is above the conventional type of melo-dramatic comedy, or because it is striking in theme and treatment, but because it presents two girl actresses who are sweet enough and clever enough to almost carry the piece to success on their own small shoulders.

They do not act like a pair of stage machines that have by dint of much training been taught to repeat, parrot like, words they do not understand; they act like two girls who, understanding the resources of voice, gesture, expression and pretty bits of play. There is something so seemingly spontaneous about their acting that they win the sympathetic admiration of the audience at once and hold it with increasing interest throughout the play. The work of these talented two must appeal strongly to all who love children, to all to whom the joys and griefs of innocent childhood are like little rifts of sunshine in the sad work-a-day world that we grown ones know so well and so sorrowfully. The piece will also introduce Mr. George F. Hall, the eminent American comedian.

At the Bijou.

Manager Wells presents at the Bijou this week an up-to-date Bijou bill of music, comedy, novelty, and everything that goes with a first-class, refined vaudeville bill. The programme contains the acts of some of the highest salaried headliners in the profession.

Miss Hilda Thompson and her company Miss Hilda Thompson and her company comedy sketch. Miss Thompson is one of those dashing, pretty comedienne who have joined the vaudeville ranks, and her success has been pronounced. She is a most excellent character comedienne, and she sings all her own music.

Press Eldridge, who was the headliner of the first bill presented at the Bijou, is also a headliner on the occasional visits to Richmond, and he will tell a lot of new, funny stories on live topics and sing a couple of new parodies and the latest roon song success. Every Bijou patron knows Press Eldridge.

The greatest troupe of marvellous acrobatic feats, the Carl Dammann Troupe—three males and two females—will also be on the programme of good things. The work of the troupe is wonderful. According to the press of the East and North.

Williamson and Stone, the clever black-face singing and dancing "rag-time" pair, will be in their new act of fine dancing and new songs. They made a great hit at the Bijou last season.

The McNulty Sisters, whose pictures tell of good looks, come well recommended. They are comedienne, dancers, and are said to dress elegantly.

The Leandos, pantomimists and acrobats, present a new act to the Richmond public, one that will be a novelty to the eyes and ears of the audience. The Leandos, Bennett and Kessler, the song and dance acts, the cleverest in the business, remain as the closing feature. Last week the singing of Mr. Kessler and the beautiful views so skillfully exhibited by Mr. Bennett made the audience hold their seats until the music was rung down. Regular performances will be given all the week.

TENNYSON AND REHAN.

Confidential correspondence from the pen of the two great world-renowned celebrities as Ada Rehan, beautiful comedienne, and Lord Tennyson, the eminent poet, has just come to light, and is sure to be of deep interest to all admirers of the artistic drama. Before the production of "The Portesters," Tennyson wrote the following simple note to Miss Rehan:

"I wish you all success with my play, 'The Portesters.' From what I know of you, I am sure you will portray the role of Maid Marian to perfection, and I am certain that the music by one so popular as Sir Arthur Sullivan, with the costumes fashioned after the old designs of the British Museum, with the woodland scenes taken from Mr. Whymper's beautiful pictures of the Sherwood of to-day, my play will be produced to advantage both in America and in England. With all cordial greeting to my American friends, I remain,

Faithfully yours,

"TENNYSON."

And he received the following from Mr. Rehan:

"Let me add my congratulations to the many on the success of 'The Portesters.' I cannot tell you how delighted I was when I felt and saw, from the first, that it was going to be to our large audience a real treat, and a play for the honor of playing your Maid Marian, which I have learned to love, for while I am playing the part, I feel all its beauty and simplicity, and sweetness, which makes me feel, for the time, a happier and better person."

"This is another example of 'married to art,' as can be plainly seen in Miss Rehan's every sentence, of her most intensely pure and artistically loyal reply.

ICE IN THE POTOMAC.

Destroys Stiff's Wharf, Which a Moment Before Was Loaded With People.

COMMON, March 8.—Special.—The residence of Mr. Jack Rawlings, situated near the court-house, narrowly escaped being consumed by fire on Tuesday. Two of Mr. Rawlings' daughters were the only occupants of the house when the fire was discovered. They gave the alarm, and by strenuous efforts the house was saved. As the fire was discovered just above the mantelpiece, it is supposed to have been caused by a defective flue.

The immense amount of floating ice in the Potomac river completely carried away Stiff's Wharf last week, leaving the large warehouse standing alone in the water. The steamer Wokefield, from Washington, had just landed her freight and passengers when the wharf gave way and floated down the river, a moment after the people had gotten on land.

The wharf-keeper was caught in the warehouse at the end of the wharf and a boat had to be sent to his rescue. The fishing season is now beginning in earnest, and the fishermen are looking forward to success in their endeavor. The fishing business last year was a complete failure in this section, nor has it

been a very remunerative one for some years past.

Hon. H. T. Garnett and G. Jesse Gouldman have returned to their respective homes and gone industriously to work among the facts.

Mr. Theodore Mason, son of Mr. Wellford Mason, one of our most prominent citizens, is slowly recovering from typhoid fever in Charleston, W. Va., where he has been in business for some months past.

A BOY'S TERRIBLE EXPERIENCE.

All Night Unconscious From a Blow—A Magnificent Colonial Tea.

MONTVALE, VA., March 10.—Special.—Charlie, the little son of Gaggin Moorhead, who lives near Bellevue, in this county, was sent to the hen house for eggs, about six o'clock in the evening, not returning, search was made, neighbors were called in to assist, and every conceivable place was searched, except the hen house, until morning when, on seeing the little fellow's dog sitting at the hen house door, barking, they thought of looking in there. He was found in an unconscious condition, almost seven o'clock next morning. He was taken into the house, and his recovery for some time resuscitated him, he at last opened his eyes and became conscious.

All that he remembers is of putting a little chicken on the roost, and being jerked around, and beat over his head and shoulders. He is recovering, but it was thought to be him, but at last accounts there was favorable hope for his recovery. Who did the dastardly deed is not known.

The Teachers' Training Course of Virginia School Teachers commences at the Union co-operative school, at Bedford, March 15th, continuing three months. Dr. William Spinner, who died here on the 3d, was thirty-eight years old, and had a large and lucrative practice. His death has cast a gloom over the community. He leaves a young wife who was devotedly attached to him.

Dr. McChesney, of Jarratts, in Sussex county, has located here. His family, consisting of wife and two daughters, will soon follow. He is forty-five years old, a physician of wide and large experience and comes highly endorsed. His family have chills, and hence his removal to the mountains. He has been here a week, and has been riding night and day.

That Montana "Snake Tale" takes the cake, beats Montvale's snake story in dreamland, but not in truth. Montvale's snake story is actually and literally true, can be vouched for as such. There was no "bitters in it," at least none "in ours."

The Colonial tea, given by the Ladies Aid Society, of M. E. C., at "Edge Hill" summer resort, on Tuesday, was a success. The ladies looked as if they'd stepped down and out of some picture, representing the grand dames in the days of Washington. Four large connecting rooms were thrown open. In the large dining room, the tables were decorated with palms and Boston ferns. A tea was served of cold turkey, hams, salads, pickles, bread, coffee and tea and chocolate. Cake and cream served during the evening. Little Walter Sliger and Jack Horner, both of the late Civil War, presented his plums at 10c, and Miss Jane Otenshain as Miss Moffet, served her "curds and whey." The donkey, true to nature, by Mrs. Billie Wise, of Churchland, Va., was an amusing feature. Miss Horner, of the late Civil War, presented his plums at 10c, and Miss Jane Otenshain as Miss Moffet, served her "curds and whey." The donkey, true to nature, by Mrs. Billie Wise, of Churchland, Va., was an amusing feature.

Mrs. Mary Otey Thompson was awarded the prize as the handsomest young dame present. She was dressed in cream silk, crimson and pastels, antique lace, a family hair boom, and wearing an exquisite set of Larva, presented to her mother, who was Sallie P. the daughter of Wm. L. Goggin, by her husband, Major Chesterfield Otey, just before he left for the fatal battle-field in the late Civil War. Mrs. Thompson was an ideal representation of a Colonial Dame, a blonde with lovely golden hair; and the aristocratic bearing of her parents. She was awarded a pair of crimson silk elastic, with gold buckles; from Roanoke.

In the Huddling Crowd. Browne—I wonder who it is old mads are generally thin. Smythe—A dispensation of Providence, perhaps. A woman with sharp elbows can make her way through the world without any man's assistance.—Philadelphia Press.

Reliable: Furniture.

Do you ever pass a first-class restaurant and get a smell of the elegant viands being cooked and served suddenly feel as if you wanted to go in and get a good meal? Well, it is somewhat the same thing as regards fine furniture. If you ever pass up or down Broad Street and glance in at the lovely display window of Sydnor & Hundleys, or better yet, take a stroll through their lovely ware-rooms, you can't help but see and want and no doubt buy some lovely thing you may see. The aim of this firm is to place before the public the latest and best up-to-date goods that money will buy, and their present stock and large trade proves they have very nearly hit the mark. Only first-class goods, a living profit, prices in plain figures, a liberal discount for cash are leading features at

SYDNOR & HUNDLEY'S,

711-713 E. Broad.

Roll and Flat-Top Desks

COUCHES and Morris Chairs.

Hall Racks and Sideboards.

Reliable: Furniture.

Reliable: Furniture.

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NEW INDUSTRIES FOR BRISTOL

Extensive Plans of Virginia Iron, Coal and Coke Company.

COLLEGE BUILDING FOR NEGROES

To be Erected by Freedmen's Board of Missions of the United Presbyterian Church—Improvements in Churches.

BRISTOL, VA., March 10.—Special.—It is now definitely settled that the Virginia Iron, Coal and Coke Company will begin some important enterprises in Bristol this spring. The matter came to light this week, when President Carter and other representatives of the company appeared before the City Council with a petition for concessions.

Along with the petition was exhibited a map of the company's possessions in Northern Bristol. The company asks that half a dozen or more streets, which exist only upon the map, be closed in order that the company's property may not be cut up by streets. In return the company proposes to establish on its lands important enterprises that will give employment to upwards of 500 men. The petition contained the further request that the Council extend its usual privilege as regards taxation, that is, to exempt from taxation any new enterprises the company may establish for a period of five years. The Council will pass upon the petition next week, and it is quite certain that the company's wishes will be granted.

IRON ROLLING MILL.

Among the enterprises which the company has planned to establish in Bristol are an iron rolling mill, machinery for rolling iron, a foundry, a machine shop and kindred industries; a general office building, freight and passenger depot, round-house, and a number of additional railway side-tracks.

The company will begin this important work immediately upon receiving the concessions asked for. In addition to the enterprises and buildings above mentioned, the company will have a large number of cottages erected. It is expected that the manufacturing enterprises to be established will call for the building in Bristol of a second iron furnace.

The Bristol Door and Lumber Company has purchased two veins of land adjoining its plant here, and will erect an addition to its already large factory. The Morton-Lewis-Wiley Company has closed a deal with the Stauffer heirs, of Pennsylvania, for a 5,000-acre tract of finely timbered land on the south side of the Holston Mountain, near Bristol, and will build a railroad to it. The company will bring logs from that property to supply its large lumber plant here.

NEW COLLEGE BUILDING.

Dr. J. W. Witherspoon, president of the Freedmen's Board of Missions of the United Presbyterian Church, and other members of that Board, were in Bristol this week and inaugurated the movement for the erection here of a \$5,000 college building for the colored people. The building will be erected on a lot recently donated for the purpose by Major A. D. Reynolds.

The Building Committee of the Second Baptist Church, recently organized here, is encouraged by the subscriptions received thus far for a new church building, to be erected at a cost of \$25,000.

The Ladies' Church Improvement Society of the Main-Street Methodist Church, decided this week to undertake to raise \$5,000 with which to modernize the church building.

Mrs. Mollie Baldwin, wife of Rev. D. O. Baldwin, died at Elizabethton, Tenn., this week, at the age of thirty-six. Her death was due to Bright's disease. She was formerly Miss Mollie Burns, of Lebanon, Va., and her remains were interred at Lebanon on Thursday.

PERSONAL MENTION.
Rev. W. W. Hamilton after a visit to his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Col. P. Hamilton, left Friday for Louisville, where on to-morrow he will preach his first sermon as pastor of McFerrin Memorial Baptist Church. Mr. Hamilton recently resigned the pastorate of the Baptist Church at Bluefield, W. Va., to accept the Louisville charge.

Representative John W. Price has returned home from Richmond. Benj. L. Dulany and John N. Huntsman are in Florida.